Abstract

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The current invention relates to methods of generating immunogens that elicit broadly neutralizing antibodies which target regions of viral envelope proteins such as the gp120/gp41 complex of HIV-1. More specifically, the current invention involves using stabilizing peptides modeling the α -helical regions of the ectodomain of the HIV-1 transmembrane protein to stabilize fusion-active intermediate structures which can be used as vaccine immunogens.

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